



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## Member Organizations

**The Umbrella Center for  
Domestic Violence Services**  
Ansonia, CT

**The Center for Family Justice**  
Bridgeport, CT

**The Center for Empowerment  
and Education**  
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program  
United Services**  
Dayville, CT

**Network Against Domestic  
Abuse**  
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services  
Greenwich YWCA**  
Greenwich, CT

**Interval House**  
Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence  
Services**  
Meriden, CT

**New Horizons**  
Middletown, CT

**Prudence Crandall Center**  
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for  
Domestic Violence Services**  
New Haven, CT

**Safe Futures**  
New London, CT

**Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Norwalk, CT

**Women's Support Services**  
Sharon, CT

**Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Stamford, CT

**Susan B. Anthony Project**  
Torrington, CT

**Safe Haven**  
Waterbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program  
United Services**  
Willimantic, CT

## Testimony Supporting

### **SB 284, An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status**

#### **Human Services Committees March 10, 2022**

Good morning Senators Moore and Berthel, Representatives Abercrombie and Case, and members of the committees. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. Our members provide essential services to nearly 40,000 victims of domestic violence each year. Services provided include 24-hour crisis response, emergency shelter, housing advocacy and resources, safety planning, counseling, support groups and court advocacy.

Senate Bill 284 seeks to build upon Public Act 21-176 and expand HUSKY health coverage to children up to the age of 18 regardless of their immigration status. As you know, PA 21-176 provided access to HUSKY for undocumented immigrant children ages 0-8 years old and pre and postnatal care for undocumented immigrant pregnant women beginning in 2023. This was a great first step but it left many immigrants unable to access healthcare. This is particularly concerning as we enter the third year of a global pandemic.

Expanding HUSKY's eligibility to be inclusive of all immigrant children regardless of status will help equalize access to healthcare coverage and reduce the uninsured rate in Connecticut. It also prevents children from suddenly aging-out of access to health coverage in the middle of their youth. We know that individuals enrolled in Medicaid are more likely to seek regular care and receive preventative services. The preventative care practices that children may develop through the age of 8 will suddenly be taken away, limiting their access to regular preventative healthcare visits as a best practice that prevents more costly, long-term health consequences.

Access to safe, affordable healthcare is one of the primary needs identified for the immigrant survivors with whom CCADV's 18 member organizations work. This population already faces so many unique challenges when seeking safety. The right to healthcare should not be one of them. Domestic violence survivors are at a higher risk for heart disease, traumatic brain injury, and pregnancy complications, among other health issues. Yet many immigrant survivors, particularly those who are undocumented, are unable to access critical physical and mental health services. Access to healthcare may also provide a connection point for survivors to safe, free and confidential domestic violence services of which they may not otherwise be aware.

Senate Bill 284 will at least allow an immigrant survivor's child, no matter their age, to access healthcare through HUSKY coverage, one helpful step in the family's journey to safety and stability. However, long-term, this is not enough. Children do better when their parents do better. It has been proven that when parents and caregivers have access to healthcare, their children are more likely to be insured and to use and receive care. The state of Connecticut must create a long term plan to expand HUSKY access to our entire immigrant community, including parents and adults.

Thank you for your consideration.

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